



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

(213) 659-0205

VOL. XIII
No. 44

NOV 25, 1991

RACE IS ON TO REPLACE SEN. ROBBINS, WHO RESIGNED JOB AFTER GUILTY PLEA ON CORRUPTION.

Although several insiders have been telling CALPEEK for months that the FBI was going to bag CA State Sen. Alan Robbins(D-Van Nuys) on some kind of charge, when the news hit Nov. 19 that Robbins had RESIGNED his 20th S.D. post as part of a plea bargain agreement with the feds, it still came as a shock. Robbins was charged with extortion, tax evasion and racketeering and could face 5 years in prison. He will pay a fine of \$250,000...

...With the 48-year-old Robbins OUT, attention now centers on a REPLACEMENT and a SPECIAL ELECTION. The Secretary of State's office says a special primary could be held from Jan. 14 to Feb. 4, with a runoff sometime between Mar. 10 and Mar. 31...

...As for who's looking at Robbin's seat, it's never too early to draw up a list of potential contenders. As CALPEEK hit deadline, there were NO officially announced candidates, but L.A. School Board member Roberta Weintraub seemed very close to making a decision. She lives just outside the 20th S.D. but would move in to run. Weintraub re-registered as a Demo not long ago and has been eyeing a move up the political ladder for some time. She has EXCELLENT name ID, but MONEY could be a problem...

...A more serious contender may be Demo Assemblyman Terry Friedman, who is part of the powerful Waxman-Berman political organization. Friedman, whose current 43rd A.D. takes in a part of the Valley, has low name ID, but would be able to raise a good-sized war chest. Sources say he's going to RUN. Another key player to watch is Cliff Berg, one of Senate President David Roberti's top lieutenants. However, some think he will take a PASS. Why? Because Roberti may want cut a deal with W/B and back Friedman,

just in case there's a problem with the new REAPPORTIONMENT plan...

...At this point it is not felt that either of the Valley's two Demo assemblymembers, Richard Katz of Sepulveda or Tom Bane of Van Nuys, have an interest in running, but Katz could change his mind. The 20th S.D. has a 57% Demo registration as of now, but that could change with reapportionment. While it would not be impossible for a Republican to win here, it would be an uphill battle unless the GOPer was well known and well funded. Stay tuned...



Just a reminder that CALPEEK will be taking off THANKSGIVING WEEK and therefore you won't be getting a newsletter next week. The next issue of CALPEEK will be dated Dec. 9th. And that issue, #45, will be the last CALPEEK for 1991. Here's wishing all CALPEEK subscribers a very joyous Thanksgiving Holiday...

RECALL OF GOV. WILSON HITS CRITICAL PHASE.

The grassroots, under-financed campaign to recall CA Gov. Pete Wilson(R) has now entered what insiders describe as the CRITICAL PHASE. CALPEEK sources believe the recall committee, which is mainly composed of angry public employees, has gathered about 500,000 signatures on petitions, but face an UPHILL battle to collect the remaining 700,000 names by the Jan. 16th deadline UNLESS major financial support is pledged within the next week. Recall proponents need 923,937 valid signatures, which a mass

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1.2 million names would probably provide...

...CALPEEK sources in Sacramento, where the recall committee is HQed, say that sometime during the Thanksgiving Week there will be at least one more meeting to decide whether or not to provide money to the recall effort. "In effect," said one source, "it's fish or cut bait week."...

...The Recall Pete Committee has been surviving on small contributions and sales of RECALL PETE t-shirts. But to make the big, last push, sources think outfits like CSEA, SEIU, AFSCME and other key public employee unions would have to make a combined commitment of at least \$500,000...

...In addition to angered public employees, the Recall Pete Cmt. has been getting lots of help from two key gay & lesbian groups, Act Up and Queer Nation. Petitions are also being circulated by motorcycle riders who are angered that Wilson signed the new helmet law, which takes effect in 1992...

...If the recall were to gather the 1.2 million names, the Secretary of State would have until Feb. 16 to verify the signatures and qualify the recall. The recall election would then have to be set within a 60 to 80 day period, meaning middle or late April to early May — BUT prior to the June 1992 primary. CALPEEK double-checked with the CA Secretary of State on this information. Stay tuned...

LOUISIANA ELECTION MIXED BLESSING FOR GOP.

Republicans across the U.S., including CA too, are slightly more relaxed now that former KKK leader and GOP State Rep. David Duke was crushed in his bid to become Governor of Louisiana on Nov. 16th. With an 78% record turnout, former Demo Gov. Edwin Edwards got 61% to Duke's 39%...

...How long this feeling of euphoria will last depends on Duke's next move, which some CALPEEK sources think will be to enter the GOP presidential race next year. If that happens, it could spell BIG trouble for Pres. George Bush - especially in the deep South and Southwest...

...Because the national media was focused on the governor's race, most didn't provide coverage of the other Statewide races. And here the news has to be troubling to the

Republican Party. Incumbent GOP Lt. Gov. Paul Hardy was trounced by political newcomer Melinda Schwegmann(D), who has never held elective office. Schwegmann got 59% to Hardy's 41%. In the open AG's race, Demo Richard Ieyoub got 70% to Ben Bagert's 30% — another GOP loss. And former LA Sec. of State Jim Brown(D) won the Insurance Commissioner's job with 61% over GOP candidate Peggy Wilson. L.A.-based consultant Val Marmillion had a role in Brown's campaign. The only bright spot for the Republicans was first term incumbent Sec. of State Fox McKeithen, who edged out Demo Doug Schmidt by a 51% to 49% margin. McKeithen is supposed to have been VERY popular, which makes one think that Duke had a NEGATIVE impact on the entire GOP State-wide ticket...

...Duke's impact was felt here in Calif., where CA Demo Party Chair Phil Angelides peppered appointed U.S. Sen. John Seymour (R) with accusations of being "soft" on Duke. That didn't sit well with Seymour. But it shows you that even in Calif. the Duke candidacy had an impact. And before you say, "It couldn't happen in Calif.," guess again. Back in the early 1980s former Calif. KKK leader Tom Metzger won the Demo nomination for a U.S. House seat from the San Diego area. Stay tuned...

REMAPPING WARS: MASTER'S PLAN ALMOST DONE.

With the inability of the Demo controlled State Legislature and CA Gov. Pete Wilson to reach agreement on a new REAPPORTIONMENT plan for U.S. House and CA Legislative districts, attention is beginning to focus on the CA Supreme Court's plan, being designed by 3 court-appointed MASTERS, with staff under the direction of Univ. of S.F. professor Paul McKasle. McKasle headed the Master's staff the last time the court got involved in remapping, back in 1973...

...The Master's plan WAS set for public release on Friday, Nov. 29th, the day after Thanksgiving, BUT now CALPEEK sources say the release MAY BE delayed until Monday, Dec. 2nd. While this may turn the long Thanksgiving weekend into an unbearable nightmare for nervous incumbents, there is a bright side: Demo and GOP staffers won't have to spend the weekend slaving over maps to see who's been screwed over and who has been saved. Stay tuned...

"NO" SIDE WINS IN LAGUNA BEACH RENT BATTLE.

With a huge war chest of perhaps \$300,000, developer interests defeated a mobile home RENT CONTROL referendum in Laguna Beach on Nov. 19. Unofficial results show the NO side of Measure A with about 52%. The turnout was MASSIVE, with 40% of the registered voters casting ballots. The Wessell Co. in L.A. managed the winning side. A very big DEFEAT for the Laguna Beach City Council...

GOP CONTEST FOR CRANSTON'S SEAT HEATING UP.

Editor's note: A spirited 3-way race is beginning to take shape among Republicans who are seeking to replace Demo U.S. Sen. Alan Cranston next year. Here's a brief CALPEEK update on some recent skirmishing...

...The outbreak of limited warfare between Palm Springs Mayor Sonny Bono, U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell (Palo Alto) and former L.A. TV-radio commentator Bruce Herschensohn started around Nov. 11-12 when Bono, in a Copley News Service interview, said he no longer supported Prop. 13 — and that it hasn't stopped the politicians in Sacto from raising taxes. As CALPEEK pointed out in last week's issue, Bono's statement is HERESY as far as MOST Republicans are concerned. In fact, support of Prop. 13 is one of the few things that Campbell and Herschensohn have in common. They both blasted Bono...

...Bono has since struck back with a clarification on his original anti-13 statement, but it isn't selling. Joel Fox, who heads the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers' Assn., said Prop. 13 hasn't wiped out local government and without Prop. 13, lawmakers could pass taxes with a simple majority instead of the 2/3rds requirement of Prop. 13. In short, Fox said Bono was "singing off key."...

...To be fair to Bono, he blasted Herschensohn as a politician and a speech writer who "ought to get a real job. Maybe then he wouldn't want to take away people's home mortgage interest deductions or allow unlimited oil drilling off Calif.'s beaches." Campbell didn't escape either. Bono bashed Campbell for voting for the congressional pay raise. No more Mr. Nice Guy...

...Meanwhile, Campbell and Herschensohn, without Bono, held their first public debate. Very predictable outcome. BH blasted Campbell for being a liberal; Campbell

blasted BH for being an ultra conservative. Bono may be at the next debate in San Diego on Dec. 17. That date could change. FYI: on the question of debates, Campbell's campaign says it will NOT do one-on-ones with Herschensohn. All candidates have to be included, with a moderator. Stay tuned...

AAPC SETS JAN. 16-18 CONFERENCE IN S.F.

The American Assn. of Political Consultants (AAPC) will gather in San Francisco on Jan. 16 for a 3-day conference titled, "Cutting Edge Consulting." Demo Presidential candidate Jerry Brown has NOT been invited. The conference will be HQed at the Fairmont Hotel. Conference co-chairs are Dick Woodward (Woodward & McDowell) and Clint Reilly (Clinton Reilly Campaigns). Cost is \$250 for AAPC members, \$295 for non-members. For info contact Karen Kapler at W-M (415) 340-0470 or Wally Mealiea at the AAPC (202) 686-5908. FYI: Clint Reilly is throwing a big bash Jan. 17 to honor AAPC Pres. Bill Hamilton, AAPC board members and conference attendees...

TRANSPORTATION/LAND USE TOPIC FOR HOLDEN.

L.A. Councilman Nate Holden will discuss "Transportation & Land Use: An Overview of 1991 Legislative Activities," Dec. 9, University Club of Los Angeles, 640 W. 6th St., L.A. Reception 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:15 p.m. The event is sponsored by the L.A. Current Affairs Forum. For info and RSVPs, call Emma Schafer (213) 445-8862...

AIPAC SETS MAJOR L.A. DINNER WITH INOUE.

U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) and U.S. Rep. Larry Smith (D-Florida) will be the featured speakers for the 1991 AIPAC Community Dinner in L.A. The dinner will be held Dec. 10 at the Century Plaza Hotel. Reception 6 p.m., dinner 7 p.m. For info & RSVPs, call Ellen Robin at AIPAC (213) 937-1184...

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REINER'S ACTIONS BEGIN TO WARM UP DA RACE.

Editor's note: Two decisions by L.A. Co. DA Ira Reiner this past week have political overtones. One decision involved Reiner's office announcing NO more PLEA BARGINS for violent crimes, while the other decision involved the blackballing by the DA's office of L.A. Sup. Ct. Judge Joyce Karlin. Both are controversial moves. Here is a brief CALPEEK update & analysis...

...Without plea bargains, sources say, the the criminal justice system would grind to a halt unless millions of dollars are pumped into the system for new courtrooms, DAs, public defenders and judges. So Reiner's decision to halt plea bargains for violent crimes may sound good politically, but from a practical viewpoint may not work. As one CALPEEK source noted, "Plea bargains are driven by judges who want to move cases along. So prosecutors with hard-assed attitudes about plea bargaining could be in a tough position."...

...The Judge Karlin case, however, is the more explosive. Karlin, a Wilson appointee with very little experience, sentenced a Korean grocery store clerk to 5-yrs. probation, a \$500 fine and 400 hours of community service for the Mar. 16 shooting death of a black teenager in a South L.A. store. This case has caused MAJOR problems in Black-Korean relations in L.A. Reiner called Karlin's actions "a stunning miscarriage of justice" and said that from now on, Karlin will be kept off all criminal cases. Reiner can do this under the current law, but this law may soon be challenged in court...

...Politically speaking, Reiner's decision is smart, but he's being blasted by judges and the L.A. Times who question whether a judge should be blackballed for one controversial decision. P.S. Judge Karlin must stand for election next year...

...FYI: Consultant Gloria Grossman is no longer working on Bob Tanenbaum's DA campaign. Health reasons. And Barbara Johnson tells CALPEEK she will NOT manage Reiner's reelection campaign. Stay tuned...

AB 101 UPDATE: GAY PROTESTERS CONTINUE TO FOLLOW GOV. PETE WILSON EVERYWHERE HE GOES.

The way that gay and lesbian protesters follow CA Gov. Pete Wilson(R) around these days reminds one of the Mother Goose nursery rhyme, "Mary Had A Little Lamb." The last part of the first verse ends with, "And everywhere that Mary went, the lamb was sure to go."...

...The protesters have been hounding Wilson ever since his Sept. 29 VETO of AB 101, the so-called Gay Bill of Rights which would have banned job bias against gays...

...Back to shadowing Gov. Pete. A question one might ask is how do the protesters know where Wilson will be? Many of the events on the governor's schedule are publicized in advance, such as his attendance last week at State Sen. Ed Davis's fundraiser in L.A. where protesters were present. But what about events that are NOT part of the public schedule or that receive little or NO advanced publicity? How do protesters know about these events???

...A few CALPEEK sources have suggested there are individuals in the Wilson Admin. who have been LEAKING this information to the protesters. It's a situation that may be causing some problems for Wilson's security people, according to sources...

...Example: On Nov. 20 CALTRANS and Santa Barbara City officials held a ceremony to turn off the last traffic light on U.S. 101 between S.F. and L.A. The L.A. Times had a Nov. 18, page 3 story about the event, but Wilson's name didn't appear in the story. This was not part of his public schedule, but protesters found out that he was going to be there and 200 or so showed up...

...How do protest organizers get the word out about Wilson's schedule? Printed posters and fliers are one method used in the West Hollywood area. Posters were up in advance of Wilson's appearance Nov. 22 at an art event at the Beverly Hilton. Another source of info is the Queer Nation hotline in L.A. (213)739-4401. Give it a call and see for yourself. Stay tuned...

